

Newsletter

Technology Lessons 4 Teachers

Blabberize

<http://edu.blabberize.com>

Featured in last year's *Big Book of Idea*, **Blabberize** is still a great tool to use with students. Blabberize is very simply, a talking picture. You upload a photo, place & fit a red circle on the lower half of a jaw, record your message using your computer, & where the red circle was it will move to the sound of your voice. So, it may seem childish and silly with this flapping mouth moving up & down, but don't dismiss it until you've tried it.

It's simple, quick, easy, fun, & free to use. For students it is a good way to practice listening & speaking skills. It can make a speech or text come alive in an entertaining way. It can make students practice a new way to present to present themselves...in the first person perspective.

Ideas to try,

- Instructions for an assignment
- Students could complete a self portrait, & discuss the motivation behind their work
- Reflection on a project
- Teacher or students read a historic speech or poem
- A reader's theater activity



ELEMENTARY: **Fodey** – p4

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MIDDLE SCHOOL: **ThinkBinder** – p2

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IPOD: **Math Kingdom, Mad Libs, Algebra** – p5

Study Group Revolution!

- tb** study live via text & video chat – study group environment
- tb** simple set of tools
- tb** perfect place for your group's conversations
- tb** ask questions, upload & share videos, graphics, notes & links
- tb** work out problems together with a collaborative whiteboard
- tb** keep group files organized in the cloud for easy access

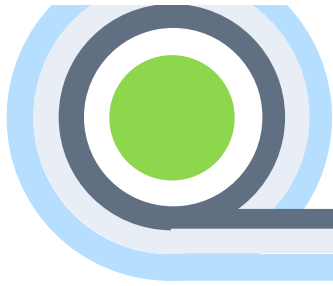


Teacher Feature: Carol Crosland

iMovie makes it easy for students to create Hollywood type movies by using the green screen effect. The following are examples of how the effect has been used in the 6th grade computer class.



- A video was made with two students taking a trip to different national parks. The parks were used as their background as they were “visiting” & giving facts. They were either hanging from Mt. Rushmore or falling into the Grand Canyon.
- One of the student’s “how to” video was playing the clarinet. The background for this project was the sheet music she used in her demonstration.
- A “how to” math video was done with Wonder Girl “flying” through the air. Once she spotted a poor young lady in the park, having problems with her math, she swooped down to help.
- When doing documentaries, the green screen effect added backgrounds to their interviews. An example of this would be when a student interviewed his dad about hunting; his background was a nature scene.
- Along with the serious videos, students like to use their free time developing funny and scary productions. It is not uncommon to encounter many types of Halloween themes. With the green material, students can make themselves or objects disappear. It is only the limitation of the creator as to what can happen with a green screen.



Flocabulary

flocabulary.com

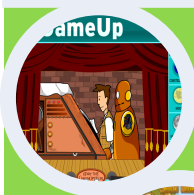
Flocabulary is hip-hop in the classroom. They offer a number of high quality, engaging resources for all major subject areas: English, science, social studies, math, music. They use hip-hop beats & rhymes to present current events, core concepts. One of my personal favorites is **The Week in Rap**, it features 7 major news stories, from world news to sports. In conjunction it has missing lyric fill-in-the-blank (rhyming, predictions, current events knowledge), comprehension questions, lesson ideas & activities that tie in with the featured stories. The library plans to purchase a single subscription for teacher use for next year. Besides learning the facts and concepts presented in the "flo", this is a great opportunity to have students eventually compose their own "flows" – **assessment of knowledge & application of non-fiction writing!**

Flocabulary presents



Website 2 Check Out

GameUp: www.brainpop.com/games



A fun site from the creators of *BrainPOP*. Educational games that are focused on BrainPOP's popular animated lessons. Games for science, math, social studies, & health. Grade ranges K-12.

Fodey Newspaper Clipping

www.fodey.com

Fodey is a free web tool that allows you to create a fake newspaper clipping. **Fodey's Newspaper Clipping Generator** allows you to create a newspaper clipping just by typing or pasting text into a form. Students can personalize the name of the paper, along with the date, title, & article. Fodey then creates the clipping & provides you with a code to embed the clipping in a blog or website. This is a great writing exercise, especially for working on past tense verbs.

Fodey also has some other tools like creating talking squirrels, flowers, tomatoes, cats, & owls. They are still images with simple animations of adding a text bubble. Be aware that you can also create a cigarette packet image with text, which would be a good tool to use for anti-smoking promotion.



ActivInspire: Page Zoom



Here is popular tool that can aide you while at the board, **Page Zoom**. It can be found in the **View** menu. To use Page Zoom, select it, then click & hold to zoom in. Click & drag to pan around the page. Right-click to zoom out. Double-click on the page to return to normal view.

You can also zoom in on the page in the **Page Scale** in the upper right corner. It is automatically set to "Best Fit" but you can fit it to width or height. You can also zoom out to 25% or in to 800%.

Using the Page Zooming options is great with you can to edit a picture, zoom in to view the latitude & longitude on a map, or to make a scavenger hunt.

Feed Me!: iPod/iPad App

Feed Me! was developed by teachers who wanted to make a simple, easy-to-use learning game that would be fun for young students. This app includes questions on basic numbers, colors, shapes, & more. Feed Me! Also comes in 7 other languages.

- Feed the little monster the correct “food” he is thinking of
- Feed the monster the wrong item & he might get sick.
- Poke the monster for fun!



iPod Apps

Math Kingdom, Mad Libs, Algebra



Elementary – Math Kingdom – Students use their powers in addition, subtraction, multiplication, & division to down walls to save the Princess. The problems get more difficult the deeper they go into the dungeon & the riddle monsters will give them tough word problems to win back stolen treasures.



Middle School – Mad Libs – The world's sweetest word game. Everyone remembers doing mad libs when they were in school & now kids can do them on the iPods. There are three different classifications that kids can make mad libs from. This is a great review for vocabulary & parts of speech.



High School – Algebra – Short videos on algebra math topics. If students download the app on their own devices they can buy full lessons for .99¢. Standardized test prep for the various national test too!

